

Voices for the Future

Summer 2003

Volume I, Issue III

ICFCRB AND CASA PROGRAMS EXPAND

The two programs operated by the Child Advocacy Board, CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) and ICFCRB (Iowa Citizen Foster Care Review Board) programs, have concluded an extremely successful year in spite of reduced financial resources. At the July state board meeting, the program administrator, Jerry Foxhoven, revealed the details of the expansion of both programs.

The ICFCRB program has continued its three-year history of expansion this year, and has reached a program landmark. The ICFCRB program has, for the first time in history, conducted over 4,000 reviews. This is an increase of 9% in the number of reviews over last year and amounts to an increase of 93% in the number of reviews conducted over FY 2000. The program has also continued its expansion into more of Iowa's 99 counties. ICFCRB conducts reviews in 56 counties at this time, an increase of 5.6% this past year and an increase of 86% over FY 2000. "I am so pleased with the staff and volunteers for continuing this expansion of our citizen review program in Iowa," said Jerry Foxhoven, the program administrator. "It could not have been possible without an incredible amount of dedication and commitment by both staff and volunteers." Don Ross, the state board chair, commented on the level of growth that has been experienced. "It has been beyond our wildest dreams," he stated. "In spite of contin-

ued budget reductions, we are serving more and more children. Our volunteers are the greatest."

The CASA program has, likewise, begun to grow under the stewardship of the Child Advocacy Board. The program has substantially increased both the number of counties served and the number of volunteers recruited. The CASA program was in 30 counties on July 1, 2002. Just one year later, the program is operating in 43 counties (an increase of 43% in one year). Since July 1, 2002, the CASA coordinators have recruited a total of 206

new volunteers, an increase in the number of active volunteers of 54% in one year. "I am thrilled with the way our CASA staff has responded to our call to end the stagnancy that existed after the uncertainty they were faced with last year and aggressively move for expansion," said Foxhoven, "Almost every area has met or exceeded its goals for this past year." According to State Chair Don Ross, "I am convinced that the partnership of our two programs will continue to allow the CASA program to experience remarkable growth."

Child Advocacy Board officials have continued to be optimistic about continued growth for both programs during the cur-

(Continued on page 3)



Inside this Issue:

*From the Administrator's
Desk..... Page 2*

*Meet State Board
Member.....Page 3*

*CAB Employee Profile
.....Page 4*

*Compliance vs. Positive
Change.....Pages 4-7*

*The Value of
Volunteers.....Page 7*

*Statewide CASA
News.....Pages 8, 10-11*

*Statewide ICFCRB
News.....Pages 8-9*

PUBLICATION INFORMATION:

To view this newsletter on our
website go to:

[www.state.ia.us/government/
dia/CAB.html](http://www.state.ia.us/government/dia/CAB.html)

Administrator:

Jerry Foxhoven
jfoxhoven@dia.state.ia.us

Editor This Issue:

Steve Ward
sward2@dia.state.ia.us



The Child Advocacy Board
publishes

Voices for the Future
on a quarterly basis.

Issues are scheduled to be
distributed in January, April,
July and October.

Send your submissions to:

Voices for the Future
Child Advocacy Board
4th Floor Lucas Building
321 E 12 St
Des Moines, IA 50319-0083

or e-mail your article to:
cab@dia.state.ia.us



From the Administrator's Desk

Now that the fiscal year has ended (June 30th), it is a great time for us to look back at our successes and challenges of last year as well as to look forward to our future. This past year was filled with challenges and accomplishments. The CASA program joined the ICFCRB program under the stewardship of the Child Advocacy Board, as well as my administration. Unfortunately, due to the state's budget problems, the CASA program was only funded at 75% of the level for the previous year. During the last quarter of the year, a number of emergency measures were taken to enable us to stay within our budget. We were successful in doing so, but it was clear that some significant changes were necessary for us to operate without such difficulties next year.

In spite of the budget shortages, both programs were successful in meeting their goals for growth this past year. Both programs were not only able to continue operations in all areas where they previously had operated, but they both expanded as well (see the lead article in this newsletter for complete details). The ICFCRB program reached a landmark this year by conducting over 4,000 reviews. This is almost twice as many reviews as just three years ago. It also expanded into more counties. The CASA program increased the number of active volunteers by 54% this past year and increased the number of counties served by 43%.

The future for our programs looks bright. A planning committee (consisting of the state board chair, the steering committee, our information technology specialist, and the management team) developed a spending plan and strategy for continuing expansion of our programs while keeping our expenditures in line with our budget. This plan will maintain the integrity (quality) of both programs, and is a terrific blueprint for the future of our agency. The State Board has unanimously approved that plan, and it is in the process of implementation at this time.

I am looking forward to this new fiscal year. We have the greatest volunteers anywhere, and our staff is committed to assisting our volunteers in their efforts to improve outcomes for Iowa's most vulnerable children. With budget cuts for DHS, as well as the redesign of that department, there has never been a time when the work of our volunteers has been more critical. I am confident that our programs will continue to provide a safety net for more and more children in this fiscal year.

Jerry R. Foxhoven

CAB Announces More Growth

(Continued from page 1)

rent fiscal year. A "vision" has been created for the agency in its administration of the two programs, and that vision was endorsed by the planning committee and unanimously approved by the state board. "This vision will affect the administration of the two programs in a positive way by allowing them to share staff, office space and equipment wherever possible in order to maximize resources," said Ross. "Our programs will continue to maintain their high levels of quality, but, by blending resources wherever possible, more and more children will be able to be served."

While details for further expansion of the two programs have not yet been released, agency officials have indicated that both programs will experience growth in number of children served, number of counties served, and number of volunteers used. According to the program administrator, "we can expect some bumps along the way as we implement the new vision. All change involves some difficulty, but the reward will be incredible. We will now be maximizing the efficiencies of administering both programs, and both programs will be the better for it. We now have a roadmap for statewide expansion of both programs."

2003 Volunteer Conference

Saturday, September 27

Airport Holiday Inn
Des Moines

Make sure you are able to attend this outstanding event. You will receive lots of great information on various topics that will make you a better CASA or Review Board volunteer, you will be inspired, and you will have a wonderful opportunity to meet and visit with other volunteers from around the state.

Sponsored by
Friends of Iowa CASA

Meet State Board Member Amy Sarchet

Music and high school young people are an important part of Amy Sarchet's life. Although Amy taught high school math for 11 years, she currently is the Vocal Music teacher at Washington High School in Cherokee, Iowa. She has done this for 6 years.

Amy and her husband, Marc, have two daughters, Allysa (15) and Sara (12). Amy is also the coordinator for a contemporary worship service at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Cherokee. On Sundays you will find her directing the worship band and/or playing keyboards.

About her work with the Child Advocacy Board, Amy states, "As an educator, I work on a daily basis with students who are in foster care or state facilities."



"I am eagerly awaiting a time when all Iowa Counties and their foster children are served by FCRB and CASA,"

Amy Sarchet

Being a member of the Child Advocacy Board has helped me see how all Iowans can help these children by being volunteers on Foster Care Review Boards and in CASA programs around the state. I am eagerly awaiting a time when all Iowa counties and their foster children are served by these programs."

Amy has been serving as a Child Advocacy State Board member since May 29, 2001. ♥



"Let's put our minds together and see what kind of world we can make for our children."

Sitting Bull

Child Advocacy Board Employee Profile: Kathy Fritz

Kathy Fritz, a Jackson, Minnesota transplant to Iowa, brings “contagious enthusiasm” to all she does. She serves 3 counties as the CASA Coordinator from the Storm Lake office in the 3rd Judicial District—*Buena Vista, Cherokee and Ida Counties*. She has led the CASA program there for over 4 years and is sold on the work CASA volunteers do. Fritz states, “It never ceases to amaze me the lengths that these community volunteers will go to in order to ensure the safety of their children. They put in countless hours and travel many miles to see that the best interests of children are being served, all the while, they never ask for anything... No pay and, in many cases, no recognition.” Her efforts have not only

“It never ceases to amaze me the lengths that these community volunteers will go to.”

Kathy Fritz



benefited the CASA program there, but her enthusiasm for the work CASAs do led at least one current CASA Coordinator to accept their position after talking with Kathy!

Kathy and her husband, Robert, have been married for 10 years and have two children: Mitchell (boy), age 7, and Riley (girl), age 6, who will both be in 1st grade this fall. Robert is a Juvenile Court Officer for Buena Vista County. Kathy spends her leisure time with her husband and children doing family activities. They are avid Nebraska Cornhusker fans and enjoy going to games or watching them on TV with friends.

Kathy's life journey has included loyalties to three different states, but her focus never varies—“We are striving to be a voice for every abused and neglected child in our area,” responded Fritz. ♥

Compliance vs. Positive Change

By Glenda Griffin, CAB Training Liaison

As Child Advocacy Volunteers we are asked to acknowledge change in parents trying to keep their children in their home, or trying to have their children returned to their home. One of the key indicators of the possibility of maintaining a family or reunifying a family is the positive change that occurs through intervention. The following worksheet is designed to differentiate between compliance with a case plan and positive change. Examples of signs that the case is not going well even when there is compliance are: when a drug addict says, “I don’t think I have a problem, I am doing this to get my kids back,” or a mother of an abused child says, “I have a new boyfriend and he is very different from my former boyfriend.”

Indicators of an individual's psychological state include cognition, behavior, affect, sense of self and social adjustment. The emphasis in this worksheet will be in the areas of cognition and behavior.

I. INDICATORS OF DYSFUNCTION: Cognition (the process of knowing including both judgment and awareness) —There are many dysfunctional patterns of cognition which create a distortion of reality (**cognitive distortion**). These patterns are self-serving. They alleviate tension. While all people have some cognitive distortion, it becomes maladaptive when some defenses are overused or used to the extent that they significantly distort reality.

DEFINING COGNITIVE DISTORTION. Typically there is a significant degree of cognitive distortion in chronically maladjusted or marginally adjusted people. When positive change occurs, cognition becomes more realistic. Dysfunctional ego defenses (adaptive reality) are difficult to treat. *Sometimes referred to as a personality disorder, persons think that everyone is like them. The following are the most common ways people adapt their perceptions to reality:*

- (a) **Denial:** Unaware, disowning or transforming the reality.
- (b) **Minimization:** Minimizing a problem by reducing the extent or impact, “He denied that he used marijuana daily. He did acknowledge that he used it seven days a week most of the time.”
- (c) **Rationalization/Justification:** Finding a reason to make

(Continued on page 5)

—(continued)— Compliance vs. Positive Change

By Glenda Griffin, CAB Training Liaison

(Continued from page 4)

an unacceptable action or situation socially acceptable (violence and abuse).

(d) **Escape/Avoidance:** Leaving or avoiding anxiety provoking situations (watching TV, drinking to forget).

(e) **Fantasy:** Seeing things the way one wants them to be rather than the way they actually are or substituting what you want to believe for reality.

(f) **Projection:** Displacing one's own characteristics, impulses, or actions onto another. This can be very dangerous for volunteers, in that they may be attacking you for their anger against the system. Persons who frequently use methamphetamine or cocaine are particularly prone to violence.

(g) **Displacement:** Taking out one's anger on a safe target such as children.

(h) **Suppression:** Consciously ignoring something.

(i) **Withdrawal:** Isolating within oneself.



BEHAVIOR—CHANGES IN BEHAVIOR in the case of compliance are more reactive and no more realistic. Realistic behaviors are present in the case of positive change. Some indicators of compliance

without positive change are:

1. **Managing Information:** This can be done by diversion/ changing the subject; telling others what they want to hear; silence; concealing information; attempting to confuse; lying (omission and commission); and being vague.
2. **Late for or misses appointments.**
3. **Attacking others:** Putting them on the defensive (everyone who disagrees is a sexist or racist).
4. **Putting things off.**
5. **Claiming they have changed enough to leave the program:** "God has forgiven me for abusing my daughter, so I don't need to be in treatment."
6. **Putting down others to make themselves feel better:** "His father is never sober enough to help."
7. **Manipulations:** Volunteers may find themselves particu-

larly vulnerable to these—

(a) *Splitting* — getting someone to side with them and pitting them against another.

(b) *Putting one on a pedestal* — telling one how helpful and wonderful they are.

(c) *Sabotage via an unresolvable issue* — "if you could prove that my boyfriend was the one who abused my daughter, then I would keep him away from her."

(d) *Making others take responsibility for their progress* (if anyone on the team is working harder than the client, it is not good.)

(e) *Manipulation of a volunteer's desire to be liked and to want to make a difference.* (Suggestion can open the conversations to the "yes, buts".)

(Continued on page 6)



"I shall pass through this world
but once.

Any good that I can do,
Or any kindness that I can show
to any human being,
Let me do it now.
Let me not defer
nor neglect it,

For I shall not pass this way again."

-Mahatma Gandhi

Compliance vs. Positive Change—(continued)

By Glenda Griffin, CAB Training Liaison

(Continued from page 5)

EMOTION/MOOD How do their moods affect the progress toward the goals? These are often seen: Depressed, Irritable, Angry, Anxious, and Inappropriate.

RELATIONSHIPS How healthy are their relationships? Do they continue in any of the following unhealthy aspects and if so, to what degree does that affect the progress toward goals?

- (1) *Lack of empathy.*
- (2) *Need-based relationships.*
- (3) *Double-standard.*
- (4) *Disrespect.*
- (5) *Need to control.*
- (6) *When held accountable, portraying themselves as the "victim" and blaming others.*
- (7) *Superficial or unsatisfying.*

SELF-ASSESS THEIR SENSE OF SELF Are they moving toward a more realistic sense of self or do they continue to demonstrate to a high degree one or more the following traits:

- (1) *Insecure.*
- (2) *Distrust.*
- (3) *Resentful.*
- (4) *Low self-esteem.*
- (5) *Self-centered.*
- (6) *Dependent.*
- (7) *Immature.*
- (8) *Self-hatred.*
- (9) *Lack of insight.*

NEGATIVE TREATMENT INDICATORS (treatment not effective) these will be defined by a mental health professional in mental health reports.

- (1) *Organic/Chronic psychosis.*
- (2) *Personality Disorders (especially antisocial).*
- (3) *A history of substantial treatment with little or no persistent change.*
- (4) *Lack of motivation for treatment.*
- (5) *Failure to take responsibility or flat denial.*

II. INDICATORS OF POSITIVE CHANGE:

COGNITION moving toward a more realistic awareness by:

- (1) *Take responsibility for their actions.*
- (2) *Proactive thinking.*

BEHAVIOR moving toward more helpful actions by:

- (1) *Initiating positive action.*
- (2) *Admitting mistakes.*
- (3) *Being genuine.*
- (4) *Patience.*
- (5) *Respectful.*

AFFECT positive response or reactions include:

- (1) *Remorse for their actions.*
- (2) *Anxiety should be normal.*

(Continued on page 7)



Good observation skills and the ability to be objective are essential for obtaining valuable information for the court.

Compliance vs. Positive Change

—continued— By Glenda Griffin, CAB

(Continued from page 6)

RELATIONSHIPS moving toward more healthy relationships by demonstrating:

- (1) *Empathy.*
- (2) *Sharing and intimacy.*
- (3) *Forgiveness and understanding.*
- (4) *Tolerance and acceptance.*
- (5) *Appropriate balance between their own and other's needs.*

SELF moving ones sense of self toward:

- (1) *Mostly positive self-esteem.*
- (2) *Insight.*
- (3) *Confidence.*
- (4) *Gratitude.*
- (5) *Maturity.*
- (6) *Security.*

III. HOW VOLUNTEERS WORK BEST:

MAINTAIN OBJECTIVITY (1) *Transference* — This is defined as when a client transfers feelings, either positive or negative from family or other persons. This can happen without harmful intentions. As a volunteer you may receive emotions transferred from frustrating experiences parents have had with social workers, lawyers, teachers and others. Do your best not to react, try to remain objective and assess the outcomes based on positive change. (2) *Counter-Transference* — You may find yourself transferring feelings from some other experience into your case. If you are aware of this, try to keep your feelings as objective as possible, talk to others (when possible) about your reactions. Ask yourself why this person makes you so angry. Do they remind you of someone else who caused you a great deal of pain or frustration?

SAVIOR COMPLEX *We want to help. Watch out, the fall off the pedestal is a hard one.* The savior complex can cause volunteers to move outside their authorized scope of advocacy and put themselves at risk. No matter how honorable the intentions, moving outside the scope of volunteer advocacy puts the volunteer and credibility of the Child Advocacy Board at risk. If you have any questions reading this, contact your local coordinator.

This check list is provided for your use on those cases in which there is action, however you are not certain that there is positive change. As families move toward positive change, children benefit.

Value of Volunteers

Article in VolunteerMatch

All CASA Coordinators and FCRB Program Coordinators know the inherent values of volunteers. The children of Iowa experience a safer future when FCRB or CASA is involved on their court case. Recently, VolunteerMatch, a newsletter for those working specifically with volunteers, set out to find an actual estimate of the monetary value these volunteers give. The results are quoted from a recent article:

"The Independent Sector recently announced that the value of volunteer time, updated yearly, has increased by nearly 50 cents from \$16.05/hour in 2001, to \$16.54/hour in 2002. When the Independent Sector first calculated the value of volunteer time in 1980, it was \$7.46/hour. (This value is based on the average hourly earnings for private nonagricultural workers as determined by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. This figure is then increased by 12 percent to estimate fringe benefits.)

Gordon Green, vice president of research at Independent Sector said, "While we recognize that volunteers offer a wide variety of services, this estimate provides a uniform way for volunteer managers, nonprofit executives, government agencies, and others to account for the value of volunteer time."

In 2002, CASA and ICFRFB volunteers in Iowa gave over 60,000 hours to help Iowa's most fragile citizens—abused and neglected children.



Thank you, Volunteers! ♥

Statewide CASA News

By CASA Coordinators

Ames CASA We have worked with several ISU students and Kappa Alpha Theta Sorority to hold their second annual "Event of Hope & Remembrance" on the ISU campus April 3rd in conjunction with National CASA's Event of Hope. The Ames CASA office now supports 3 counties: *Story, Marshall and Hardin Counties*. Carrie Baier, CASA volunteer & ISU intern, organized the Veishea Parade (April 12th) entry for Kappa and CASA. They had a fire truck and the theme was from 9/11—"CASA Volunteers, heroes for abused and neglected children." A Swearing In ceremony was held for the 1st class of Hardin County CASAs and two cases have been assigned there.

—Steve Ward



Cedar Rapids CASA Ongoing training sessions were recently provided to CASA volunteers by the Juvenile Court Judge in *Linn and Johnson Counties*. In Cedar Rapids, Judge Susan Flaherty

met with CASAs from *Linn and Jones County* at an evening get-together at the courthouse. After a question/answer session with Judge Flaherty, there was a tour of the courtroom and judge's chambers. The judge also held a discussion regarding report writing, courtroom testimony, and how to provide the judge with insights that are not available from other sources. The Iowa City sessions were hosted by Judges Sylvia Lewis and Stephen Gerard, as well as Assistant Johnson County Attorney Deb Minot. In addition to the tours of the courtrooms and chambers, the volunteers were able to discuss topics ranging from volunteer safety to discharge of cases. Again, veteran CASAs were on hand and proved very helpful in answering questions from new recruits.

—Dave Zimmerman

Council Bluffs CASA Our office is part of the 4th Judicial District and has begun training 10 people as CASA volunteers for *Mills, Page and Pottawattamie Counties*. We have 3 more volunteers in the next training, which will bring the number of volunteers here to over 30! There is a new CASA Secretary in place, Cheryl Gerharter, from Council Bluffs. Cheryl

(Continued on page 10)

Statewide ICFCRB News

By ICFCRB Coordinators

1st JD FCRB Things continue to be busy in the Dubuque FCRB office. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of our facilitators who experienced the temporary layoff at the end of the fiscal year. Your understanding is truly appreciated as is the work you do with your boards. Your volunteers missed each of you and look forward to working with you again.

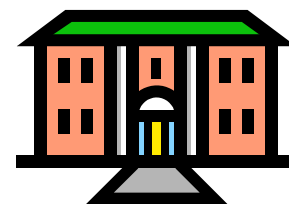
During this time of cutbacks and changes in the child welfare system, we ask our volunteers to continue to be cognizant of resources available in their communities. The volunteers have a unique opportunity to recommend the utilization of resources that may be unfamiliar to children, families and even the Department of Human Services. We appreciate the dedication and support you provide in advocating for children in the foster care system.

—Alesha Kara & Shirley Hoefer

5th JD FCRB This program now provides reviews to all foster children in a 9-county area (*Adair, Adams, Union, Taylor, Ringgold, Clarke, Lucas, Decatur, and Wayne*). The Decatur Cluster Board has a new meeting site in Chariton. Reviews take place at the Methodist Church, which is located just one block from the town square. The new location is closer to DHS, the courthouse, and most law offices.

In addition to serving as a local board member for the Union Cluster, Maxine Bussanmus is also a substitute Facilitator for the Foster Care Review Board program. She has facilitated several meetings in recent months, and has very ably used her skills to meet the needs of children and fellow board members alike.

—Dave Zimmerman



6th JD FCRB Toledo Meetings have been held with Juvenile Judges in *Bremer, Butler and Poweshiek Counties*. Soon Foster Care Review Board will be recruiting volunteers and advocating for children in these areas. A meeting will

(Continued on page 9)

ICFCRB Across the State

(Continued from page 8)

soon be held with the Juvenile Judge in Chickasaw County, as well. All of these counties: *Bremer, Butler, Chickasaw, Iowa, Benton, Tama, and Poweshiek*—will be run from the Toledo office as soon as some technical issues are worked out.

—Charlotte Brandvig

6th JD FCRB Cedar Rapids: Even with the Tama County Board being transferred to the Toledo Child Advocacy Board (CAB) office in April 2003, our area's remaining eleven Boards reviewed 100 children in May. What an effort of all involved from volunteers to staff! In Cedar Rapids, as staff, we look forward to the additional melding of the work process for both CAB programs, CASA and Foster Care Review Board. We're excited to have the facilitators back and look forward to this next fiscal year. Enjoy your summer and everyone—keep up the good work!

—Jennifer Gericke

7th JD FCRB Davenport An appointment ceremony was held on February 28 at the Scott County Courthouse. The Honorable John Nahra, Chief Judge of the 7th Judicial District, presided. Four new FCRB members were sworn in: Jim Kettmann, Joyce Arndt, Tom Voorhees and Doug Walter. They

"Serving on a Foster Care Review Board is a way to invest in our society's most precious resource: our children."

Honorable Lucy Gamon,
Juvenile Court Judge



will be joining boards in Jackson, Clinton, and Scott Counties. Judge Nahra expressed his sentiments about the service of the volunteers, stating in

part, "Words are simply inadequate to express the Judicial Branch's and the community's appreciation for the work of community volunteers. We must depend upon members of our community to assist the court in providing a safe environment for children and families. Citizen Foster Care Review Board volunteers aid us a great deal in achieving this goal. I am sincerely indebted to the efforts of the volunteers of the Foster Care Review Board."

In other news, plans are underway to provide a FCRB Coordinator to fill the vacant 7th JD office. It is anticipated that this will take effect shortly after July 1, 2003.

—Dave Zimmerman

8th JD FCRB Washington Pat Cody, JDPC, has recovered from knee surgery. She returned in last month, and our thoughts are with her as the healing continues.

The staff of the 8th JD office continues to provide support for local boards in the 3rd judicial district, in addition to performing the work that is needed to support their own 17 boards. The efforts of the volunteers and staff is not going unnoticed by the Honorable Lucy Gamon, Juvenile Court Judge. She recently wrote, "The local Foster Care Review Boards play a very important role in the juvenile court system. Board hearings provide a forum for parents, counsel, Department representatives, and others to come together and air important issues involving children. Citizen volunteers on the Board also help ensure that no child 'falls through the cracks', and that every child knows the community cares about his or her welfare. Serving on the Foster Care Review Board is a way to invest in our society's most precious resource: our children."

—Dave Zimmerman for Pat Cody

CASA Across the State (continued)

(Continued from page 8)

is a long time volunteer in the Council Bluffs School System and is a very dedicated and hard worker here in the office. I am pleased to have her on board! Cheryl is married to Steve Gerharter and they have two sons, Danny (15) and Luke (9).

—Anne Christensen

Clinton/Davenport CASA By adding *Jackson & Cedar Counties*, this office now covers five counties (*Clinton, Muscatine and Scott Counties*)! Eight new CASAs were trained to raise the Clinton-Muscatine County total to 43 volunteers. Georgann trained a very large group of volunteers in the Scott County program. Last year over 103 children were served! A blended In-Service educational training was held with both CASA and ICFCRB volunteers

A quote to motivate: "What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but woven into the lives of others." (Pericles)

—Nancy Manion

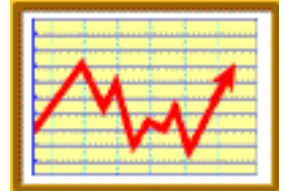
Dubuque CASA Two phrases cover the changes here: new offices, new recruits. Seriously, CASA and FCRB are now together in a new location! Our CASA/FCRB office has seen an increase in recruiting and training in both *Delaware and Dubuque Counties*. Volunteers always amaze us — going above and beyond, following through, "doing it right," to advocate for their "kids".

—Cindy Aland-Juncker

(Editor's Note: Cindy and her family moved to Ohio this summer. Cindy will be greatly missed.)

Indianola CASA This program covers 4 counties: *Warren, Clarke, Madison and Marion*; soon it will cover 4 more counties: *Decatur, Lucas, Ringgold and Wayne*. That will make 8 counties! More referrals are coming in for new cases. Recruiting efforts are underway in all 8 counties and the interest in CASA is strong. Now CASAs are helping more chil-

dren than ever in our area with even more citizens going through the process of applying to become a CASA volunteer.



Part of the restructuring of the Child Advocacy Board has been to move the office site from Indianola to Des Moines. The office is now located in the Lucas Building along with Polk County CASA and the State Office.

—Bev Miller

Mason City CASA Our office is expanding CASA coverage to 6 counties now! These are: *Cerro Gordo, Floyd, Hancock, Mitchell, Winnebago, and Worth Counties*. Juvenile Judge Gerald Magee was featured on TV and in print ads as part of a "media blitz" during January and February to get the word out about the expansion of the CASA program in North Iowa and the need for more CASA volunteers. The response was overwhelming! The results are that over 17 new CASAs from all 6 counties have been trained—and at least as many more have expressed interest in future trainings! Glenda and Amanda provided excellent training with a special local Foundations training! Now the task of assigning all of these CASAs is before us. We have found our website very helpful in recruiting, as well: www.northiowacasa.com.

—Suzan McKiness

(Editor's Note: Please take some time to visit this website. They have done a very professional job!)

Ottumwa CASA We are expanding into new counties and now have volunteers from *Jefferson, Mahaska, Monroe, and Wapello counties*! Our volunteer numbers continue to grow as do the number of children we are serving. In addition, Glenda Griffin has been recruiting new volunteers from *Appanoose County* and is ready to train 6 new CASAs volunteers!

—Aprile Goodman

Polk County CASA An example of a CASA in action occurred at a staffing at a local hospital here. The psychiatrist

(Continued on page 11)

CASA Across the State (continued)

(Continued from page 10)

asked the assembled group who could brief him on the lives of the 5 children—their history, behaviors, where they are living, etc. The therapists, attorneys, educators, and social workers were all silent. Then the CASA said, “I can do that!” There was a collective sigh of relief. While the professionals all cared about these children, they each only had a piece of the puzzle. This CASA had just spent several hours for the past 4 months gathering all this information and sorting through all the numerous details, interviewing friends, relatives and the providers! Even more important is the time with each of the children she serves. Each child knew someone in the system cared about them!

Every child in the juvenile court system deserves this kind of advocacy, but all too often they don’t have access to one. Caseloads keep getting larger and larger as state budgets are stretched to the limit. We are so proud of the work all our CASA volunteers give on behalf of abused and neglected children.

—VeeAnn Cartwright & Kevin Schnoebelen

Storm Lake CASA This office now covers *Buena Vista, Cherokee and Ida Counties*. Ida County opened up in October 2002! Two recent trainings have added 11 new volunteers ready to advocate for abused children. There are also 6 more volunteers waiting for training. All of this is credited to new recruiting strategies taught to the Coordinator from Glenda Griffin, Child Advocacy Board State Training Liaison.

—Kathy Fritz

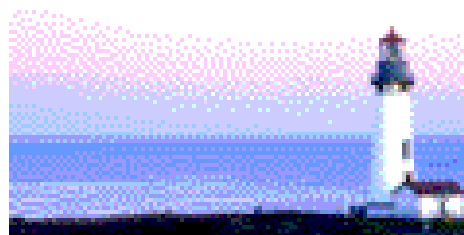
Sioux City CASA The Sioux City program is increasing its territory by adding *Lyon County* to current counties: *Monona, Plymouth, Sioux, and Woodbury!* Five counties total! In-Service Trainings are scheduled monthly through the summer, which include topics such as “When ‘Reasonable’ Efforts Become ‘Unreasonable,’” Revised Report Writing, and Sexual Abuse. We are extremely proud of our CASA Volunteers as they meet the challenges of working in very emotionally charged situations. They deserve our utmost respect and gratitude. In addition, the Sioux City office often provides courtesy supervision of CASA cases from other judicial districts when the parent is at Jackson Recovery.

—Marla Treiber

Waterloo/Toledo CASA Both Renee Else, CASA Coordinator for *Black Hawk, Buchanan, and Grundy Counties*, and Charlotte Brandvig, veteran FCRB Program Coordinator and new CASA Coordinator for *Benton, Iowa and Tama Counties*, have shared the same office in providing supervision to their volunteers. Renee has continued to provide supervision to the veteran CASAs and Char has been assigning new cases to the new volunteers. The plans are for Renee to “walk away (Renee)” from the Toledo office at the end of June and for Charlotte to take over CASA and FCRB in her 7 counties: *Bremer, Chickasaw, Tama, Benton, Iowa Poweshiek, and Butler Counties*. Renee will focus on CASA in *Black Hawk, Buchanan, and Grundy Counties* from the Waterloo office and provide support as needed to Charlotte as she then supervises both FCRB and CASA in her other counties.

In-Service Trainings have included speaker Janice Phelps, who provided an excellent session on working with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) kids. Both programs continue to expand in the number of volunteers and the number of children served. Regularly, social workers are asking for CASAs to be assigned to their cases. Swearing In Ceremonies were held in January and June 2003 for a wonderful group of volunteers. An attorney in court this week best describes the CASA work in our community, “the CASA report and recommendations are really the only ones that make sense.”

—Renee Else



Child Advocacy Board (CAB)
4th Floor Lucas Building
321 E 12 Street
Des Moines, IA 50319-0083
Phone: 515-281-7621
Toll-Free: 1-866-448-4608

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
DES MOINES, IA
PERMIT NO. 1195

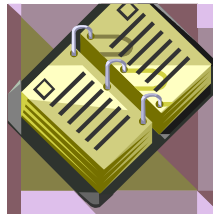
If you wish to be removed from the mailing list for **Voices for the Future**, please contact the Child Advocacy Board State Office at the address or phone number above.

Foundations in Child Advocacy Training Schedule

October 9-11 Sioux City
Western Iowa Tech Community College

November 6-8 Ankeny
Des Moines Area Community College

December 11-12 Cedar Rapids
Kirkwood Community College



*To register for any of the training dates above,
please call the CAB State Office at 1-877-251-6518.*

*PLEASE NOTE: Continuing Education Units (CEU) are
offered only at trainings held at community colleges.*

For more information about
the

Court Appointed Special Advocate
(CASA) Program



or

Iowa Citizen
Foster Care Review Board
(ICFCRB) Program



nearest you,
please feel free to
contact the
Child Advocacy Board
State Office
at the phone number or
address noted above.

CITIZENS WORKING
FOR CHILDREN